

AMHERST, MONT VERNON, SOUHEGAN, and SAU39 POLICY

BBA – BOARD MEMBER AUTHORITY

The authority of individual Board members is limited to participating in actions taken by the Board as a whole when legally in session.

Board members shall not assume responsibilities of administrators or other staff members. The Board or staff shall not be bound in any way by any action taken or statement made by any individual Board member except when such statement or action is pursuant to specific instructions and official action taken by the Board.

Board members have no authority over school affairs as individuals. They have complete authority, within state law, over school affairs only when they are assembled as a legal body.

The decisions and actions of a single member of the board cannot be binding on the entire board.

The board must exercise its powers and duties only in properly called meetings where a majority of the board constitutes a quorum.

The decision of the board shall be binding until rescinded by the board at a duly called regular or special meeting.

Each Board member is obligated to attend Board meetings regularly. Whenever possible, each Board member shall give advance notice to the Chairperson or Superintendent of their inability to attend a Board meeting.

Each Board member shall review the agenda and any study materials distributed prior to the meeting and be prepared to participate in the discussion and decision-making for each agenda item. Each agenda will provide an opportunity for Board members to comment on District activities and/or educational issues. These comments may become topics for future Board discussions.

Board members may occasionally serve on committees or organizations for the purpose of reciprocal communication and reporting back to the Board.

The board does not exist between meetings. Board members have no authority except at board meetings or when discharging an assignment made by the board. Parental inquiries shall be referred through appropriate channels

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Board officers will include a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary. Officers will be elected at the board's re-organizational meeting following the school district annual meeting. Board officers will serve a one-year term, concluding at the re-organizational meeting the following year, at which time a new election of officers will occur. Officers will remain in their respective offices until new successors are elected.

If the chairperson resigns from the school board or resigns from the office of chair, the vice-chairperson will become chair of the board. If the chairperson loses his/her election or does not run for re-election, the vice-chair shall serve as chair during the organizational meeting. If the vice-chairperson or secretary resigns from the school board or from the respective office, the board will hold new elections for those offices.

The Superintendent is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board.

Chairperson:

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the contracts, instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board;
2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board meeting agendas;
3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters that may occur between Board meetings;
4. Appoint members to serve on specific committees, subject to full Board approval;
5. Call emergency meetings of the Board as necessary;
6. Be the public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others; and
7. Preside at and be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings. As presiding officer at all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson shall:
 - a. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time;
 - b. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order;
 - c. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of meetings;
 - d. Put motions to a vote and announce the vote result.
8. Have the right, as other Board members have, to offer motions, discuss questions, and vote.
9. Have such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

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Vice-chairperson:

The Vice-Chairperson will have the powers and duties of the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence or for the duration of their inability to perform their duties, and such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine. The Vice-Chairperson may attend meetings where board meeting agendas are planned.

Secretary:

The Secretary, or designee, shall keep minutes of proceedings in non-public session at least to the extent of recording any decisions made therein, and such other powers and duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

Legal references:

RSA 91-A:2, Meetings Open to Public

RSA 91-A:2-a, Communication Outside Meetings

N.H. Code of Administrative Rules-Section Ed. 303.01, Substantive Duties of School Boards

^[1]_{SEP}Appendix: BBA-R^[1]_{SEP}

Revised: November 15, 2021

Adopted: February 27, 1990 (Souhegan)